

Winter Vaccine Champions

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Disclosures

There is no commercial support for today's webinar.

Neither the speakers nor planners for today's webinar have disclosed any financial interests related to the content of the meeting.

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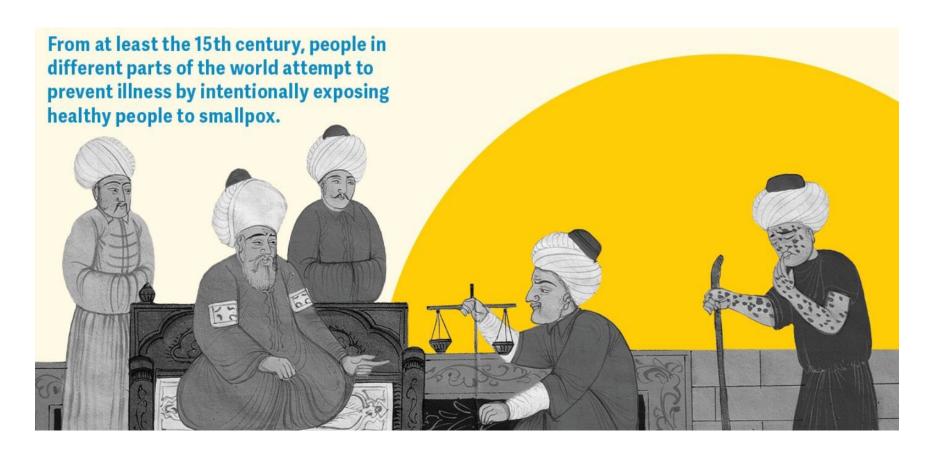


A Historical Perspective





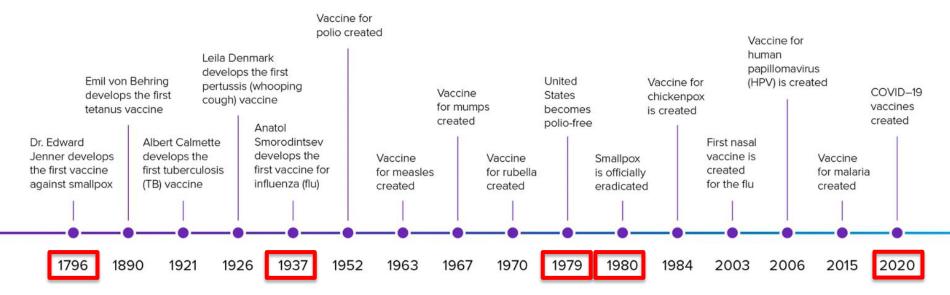
A Brief History of Vaccination



1. https://www.who.int/news-room/spotlight/history-of-vaccination/a-brief-history-of-vaccination



Vaccination timeline





FACTS:

The U.S. experiences approximately 30 cases of tetanus each year There are fewer than 10 rubella cases per year in the U.S. Hospitalizations and deaths associated with chickenpox have declined by 90%

https://www.healthgrades.com/right-care/vaccines/14-diseases-nearly-eliminated-by-vaccines



14 Diseases Nearly Eliminated by Vaccines

- Polio
- Smallpox
- Tetanus
- Hepatitis A and B
- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella
- Haemophilus Influenzae Type B
- Pertussis
- Pneumococcal disease
- Rotavirus
- Varicella (chickenpox)
- Diphtheria

^{1.} https://www.healthgrades.com/right-care/vaccines/14-diseases-nearly-eliminated-by-vaccines



Improvement in Life Expectancy Due to Public Health Measures

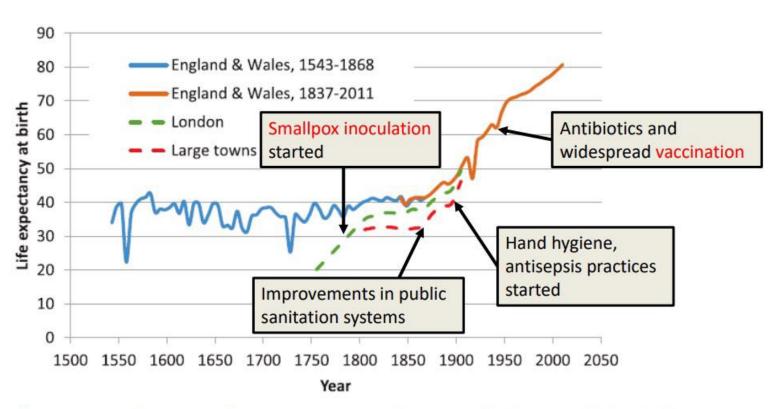
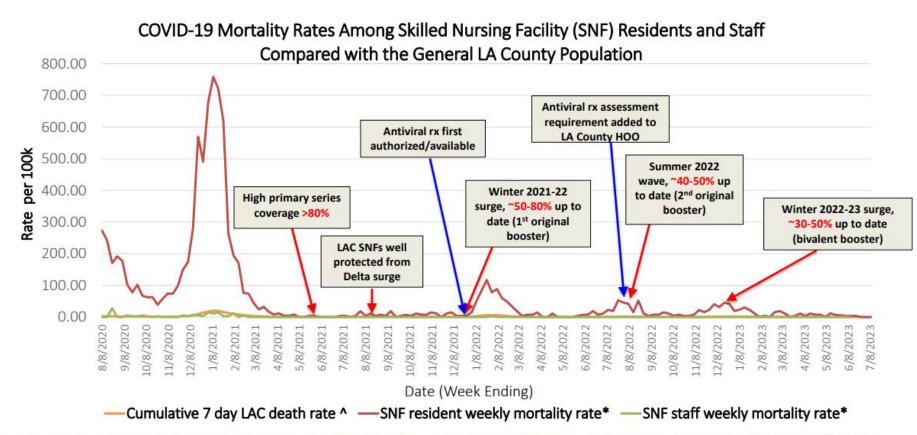


Figure 1. Estimates of long-run life expectancy at birth in England 1543-2011

Shaw-Taylor, Leigh. Epidemics, Disease and Mortality in Economic History. August 2020. Accessed online Aug 10, 2023: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/ehr.13019



How Vaccines have Decreased COVID-19 Death Rates



[^] Seven-day cumulative crude Los Angeles County (LAC) death rates are sourced from IRIS database case date of death, and data are reported from Aug 8, 2020 through Jul 23, 2023. The population rate is per 100,000 and sourced from 2018 population estimates. Deaths are reported by date of death or date received if date of death is missing.

^{*} Seven-day cumulative crude SNF mortality rates were sourced from the self-reported surveys facilitated by the Center for Disease Control National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) COVID-19 Long Term Care Facility Component. Data reported beginning May 14, 2023 until current. CDPH 123 weekly survey was used for data reported from Aug 2, 2020 through May 7, 2023 for SNF residents and staff. Dates reflect the date the death was reported to the facility. The population rate is per 100,000 and sourced from the reported weekly resident census and staff totals for all LAC jurisdiction SNFs – these are population statistics and not estimates. Staff deaths are no longer reported as of Jun 11, 2023. This analysis includes data reported by 319 SNFs as of Jul 23, 2023.



Successful Strategies from our Winter Vaccine Champions



Carmen Ochoa, Villa Scalabrini Special Care Unit

- Small 58-bed facility where the relationships between residents, families, and facility staff are very close.
- Communication:
 - Keep families informed via emailed.
 - Speak with families when they come to visit.
 - Call families on the phone.
- Preparation:
 - Contacted different pharmacies to see who would have the vaccine soonest.



Randie Bishop, Golden Legacy Care Center

- Education and offering multiple times.
- Younger residents were more hesitant:
 - Held a townhall to explain the risks and benefits.
 - Included therapists and counselors they were familiar with.
- Multiple offerings:
 - Not only offered multiple times, but also listened to their concerns and addressed them each time.



Lina Pham, Courtyard Care Center

- Dedication, compassion, patience, and encouragement.
 - Having a conversation and making them feel heard.
 - Involving loved ones or a staff member they trust.
 - Reminding them that they live in a long-term care facility and respiratory viruses are circulating.
- Coming back again and again.
 - Sometimes they change their mind!



Ivy Pulmano, Whittier Pacific Care Center

- Facility recommendation.
- Consent for COVID-19 vaccines upon admission with vaccine information sheets.
- Flyers around the building to encourage residents, their families, and staff to get the vaccine.
- Mass texting to staff to get COVID-19 and influenza vaccines for the safety of residents and themselves.
- Have vaccine on hand at all times.



Rosalina Flores, Stoney Point Healthcare Center

- Explain the risks and benefits to residents, families, and staff.
- When families are resistant, explain that COVID-19 has evolved and keeping their loved ones safe requires getting updated vaccines.
- Staff vaccination rates are a challenge, but she will continue to offer and educate.



Increase Vaccine Confidence for ALL Vaccines

- Trust
- Compassionate listening
- Persistence
- Protection
- Education
- Communication
- Convenience
- Policy
- Preparation



Best Practices for Improving COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage in Skilled Nursing Facilities

Vaccine acceptance may take time, info, and effort. Many skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) have achieved near 100% vaccine coverage amongst healthcare personnel (HCP), residents, or both using the best practices below. Lead with compassion, assurance, and education. Avoid shame and intimidation **High Impact** tactics. ☐ Be persistent: schedule reminders to check in and re-offer the vaccine to persons who **Best Practices** initially decline. Most declinations are based on a "wait and see" attitude Categories Strategies ☐ Establish a formal space for vaccination to promote confidence and anticipation (e.g., signs showing areas for registration, administration, observation, etc.). ☐ Hold regular in-services for HCP with vaccine updates and opportunity for Q&A. Incorporate vaccination into Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) meetings and care planning Policy & Procedure Develop internal policies regarding vaccination including HCP incentives, extended time-off, or non-punitive sick leave policies for post-vaccination symptoms. Offer to extend observation time (i.e., 30 min when only 15 min is indicated). Dedicate a vaccine team with clear roles for vaccine confidence, registration, storage, obtaining consents from residents & loved ones/families, etc. Empower vaccine champions among HCP who speak the preferred languages of staff and residents. People Dedicate a HCP to regularly communicate with residents' loved ones/families on the facility's vaccination program and provide education on vaccine efficacy & safety. ☐ Engage the SNF pharmacist and Medical Director as trusted sources to directly address questions and concerns from HCP, residents, loved ones/families. ☐ Listen to understand, not to respond. Show compassion, avoid judgmental attitude. Engage in one-on-one conversations to protect privacy & provide a safe space to hear ☐ Tailor approach to each individual: Often need multiple approaches e.g., assurance, acknowledgement, education, more time. Culture ☐ Promote positive testimonials including from facility leadership, respected HCP, other residents (with permission), community leaders, etc. Schedule regular check-ins around time of vaccination with residents' loved ones/families for reassurance. Provide education judiciously. Avoid educating when unwanted or without asking first. Create a celebratory atmosphere: play music, host raffles, etc. on vaccination days. ☐ Provide written materials on vaccine efficacy & safety available in multiple languages. ☐ Send written letters signed by the Medical Director in preferred languages to residents Materials & loved ones/families prior to vaccination including planned vaccination date(s).

Increase visibility of vaccination efforts and vaccinated persons: stickers, buttons,

flyers, photos, testimonials, "why I'm getting vaccinated" board.



SNF Vaccine Confidence Listening Sessions January 2021

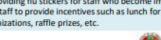
- Lead with compassion.
- Avoid shame and intimidation.
- Tailor the approach to each individual.
- **Empower** vaccine champions.
- Be persistent and systematic.
- Promote positive testimonials.
- Increase visibility of vaccine efforts.





Best Practices for Improving Influenza Immunization Coverage Amongst Healthcare Personnel

High Impact Best Practices	Make the influenza immunization a condition of employment by revising your facility's internal policy, meeting with union counterparts, etc. *Revise the declination form to only include options such as medical contraindications and removing the personal beliefs exemption (i.e. implement a medical exemption review process for staff who are requesting exemptions) *Develop an influenza management committee to include the Administrator, Nurse Educator/Director of Nursing, Infection Preventionist and Medical Director to meet monthly during the influenza season
Possible Barriers	Strategies to Address Barriers
Hiring freezes or lack of staffing and resources	Include the healthcare personnel (HCP) influenza immunization as a Quality Improvement measure for the facility Inform unit managers to hold staff accountable on each unit by submitting weekly updates to assist with data collection Infection Preventionists or Employee Health can create a spreadsheet with deadlines for follow up
Lack of follow up with staff who did not meet the facility's influenza immunization target	 Consider implementing consequences for staff who are non-compliant with submitting their influenza immunization documentation or with wearing a mask, if required (i.e. verbal/written warnings, badge suspension, etc.) Encourage discussion about the influenza campaign in staff meetings Assign influenza immunization champions to increase rates (e.g. staff such as CNAs, RNs, LVNs, Environmental Services, PT/OT, etc., can encourage their colleagues to become immunized)
Difficulty with obtaining documentation from licensed independent practitioners (i.e., some Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) may not require influenza immunization as a condition of employment)	Encourage staff to submit documentation for the immunization and offer an attestation form for staff who were unable to obtain documentation Obtain accurate denominator of physical staff in the SNF during the influenza season reporting period
Staff declining the immunization due to personal reasons (e.g., getting sick, not trusting the immunization, etc.)	Implement mandatory in-services for staff who are declining the immunization to dispel myths
Lack of leadership involvement	 Obtain Medical Director/Administrator buy in to encourage the influenza immunization amongst staff (i.e. issuing a directive to all HCP of the requirement to be immunized, dates the immunization will become available (on-site if possible), and the immunization provided at no cost)
Lack of key messages or incentives provided by facilities	Encourage the development of a slogan for your influenza campaign Consider providing flu stickers for staff who become immunized Encourage staff to provide incentives such as lunch for the unit with the most immunizations, raffle prizes, etc.



Influenza Immunization Healthcare Task Force Recommendations Los Angeles County Department of Public Health www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acdc/Flu.htm www.cdc.gov/flu/resource-center/toolkit/index.htm





Best Practices for HCW Influenza Vaccination

- Support from leadership.
- Make it hard to say no.
- Policy and procedures to keep staff accountable.
- Educate.
- Offer incentives.
- Track/monitor HCW vaccination.



Opt-in vs opt-out consent processes



- Opt-in: "Do you want the vaccine?"
- Opt-out:
 - "Do you want your vaccine this week or next week?"
 - "Since this vaccine is recommended for you, you are scheduled to get the vaccine on (date), and you have the choice to decline protection prior to then."
- Are both these methods valid ways to obtain consent for vaccines? Yes
- What is legally required? Provision of the EUA fact sheet or VIS (vaccine information statements) to the recipient and/or their medical decision maker.
- Is a wet signature (written consent) legally required? No. However, this is different from documenting verbal consent which depends on facility policy.

Anecdote: Systematically practiced by at least 1 SNF in LA County with resounding success (close to 100% for both staff & residents)



When to Administer the Winter Vaccines

- **COVID-19:** as soon as a person is eligible (please see CDC's <u>Stay Up-to-Date</u> <u>Recommendations</u> for details) and prior to the start of the winter respiratory virus season (usually starting in November, sometimes earlier).
- Influenza: September and October of every year prior to the start of the winter respiratory virus season (now), but even after October, individuals especially residing in or working in nursing homes should receive the influenza vaccine anytime during the season through April.
- RSV: adults 60 and older may receive the RSV vaccine prior to the start of the winter respiratory virus season, which usually starts in October. Eligible individuals could continue to get the vaccine throughout the RSV season, which usually ends in April.

COADMINISTRATION IS KEY!

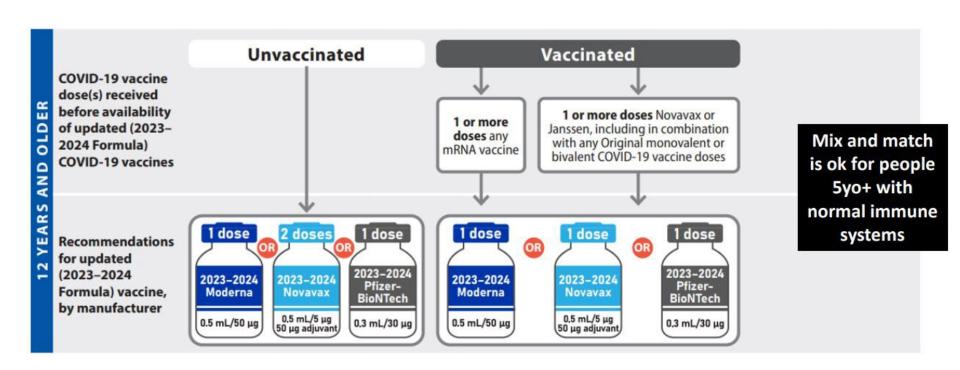


Specifically for the Updated COVID-19 Vaccine

- Do not wait until 90 days have passed after a person was infected to administer the vaccine!
- The updated COVID-19 vaccine can be given as soon as a person has come out of isolation or their symptoms have subsided.
- We do not advise waiting because vaccination delays lead to more frequent transmission of COVID-19 to others.



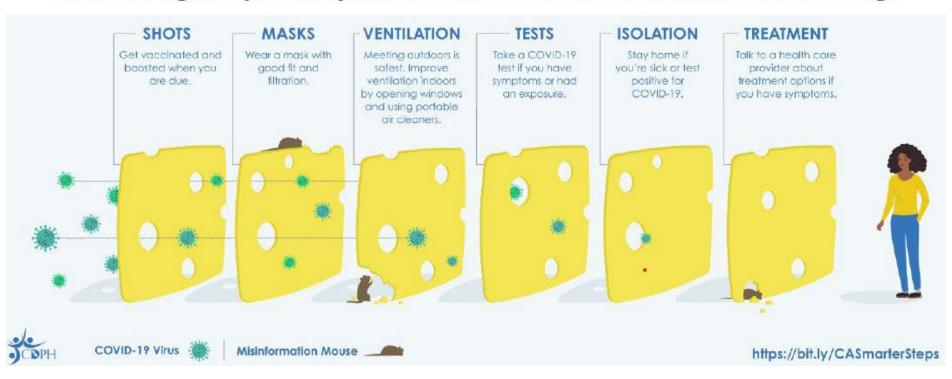
Recommended updated (2023–2024 Formula) COVID-19 vaccines for people with normal immune systems



 ${\bf 1.} \underline{https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/COVID19-vaccination-recommendations-most-people.pdf}$

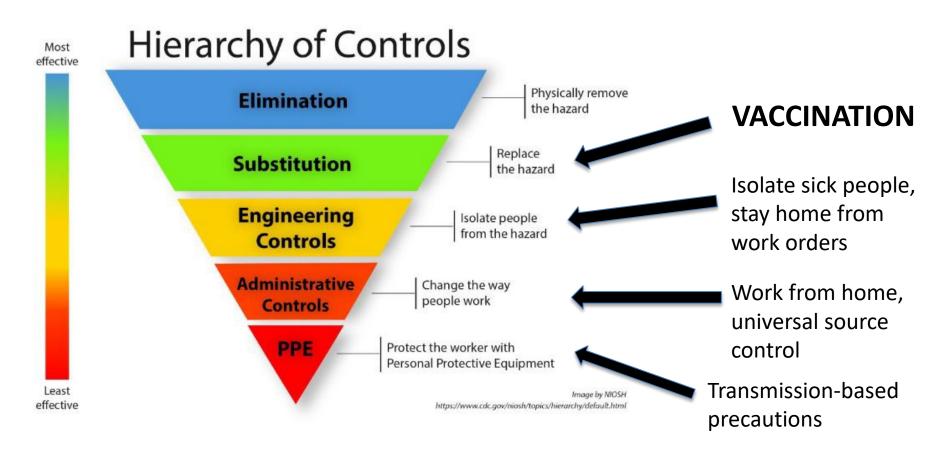


Healthcare Personnel (HCP) Vaccination and Source Control Masking Policies: Layered Approach to Preventing Respiratory Virus Transmission in Healthcare Settings





Hierarchy of Controls



^{1.} https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hierarchy/default.html



What Has LAC DPH Been Doing?



LAC DPH Interventions to Support Vaccination in SNFs

Dec 2020

Dec 2020-Jan 2021

Jan 2021

Feb 2021-Jan 2023

Early 2021

- LA County withdrew from Federal Pharmacy Partnership (FPP) for Long-Term Care Program
- Bi-weekly webinars (5 in total during this period)
- Local listening sessions on vaccine confidence
- In-person vaccine confidence visits from local Public Health
- Local support and relationship building with pharmacies

Apr 2021present

Nov 2021

Aug 2021

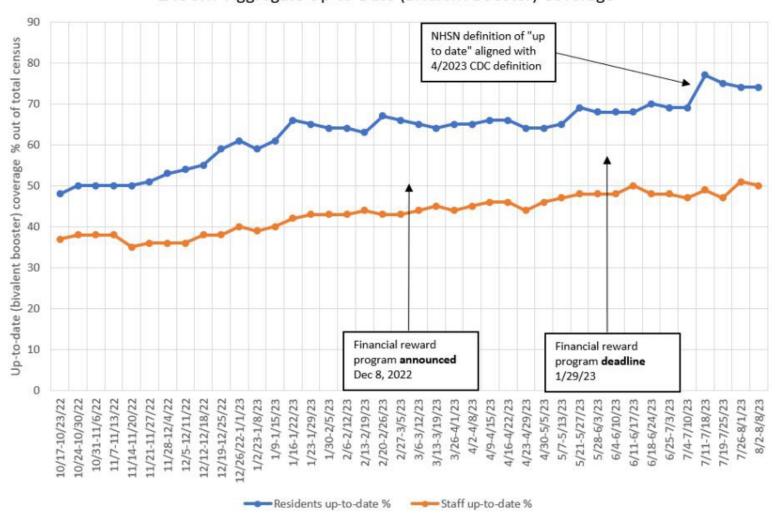
2021-2022 Dec 2022-Feb 2023

- Local "mobile vaccine teams" (MVT)
- Federal mandate for HCW to get primary series from CMS
- CDPH & LAC DPH Health Officer Orders requiring COVID primary series + 1 booster for HCW
- State and local calling campaigns
- Local financial reward (incentive) program for bivalent booster



How the Incentive Program Affected Bivalent Booster Coverage

LAC SNF Aggregate Up-to-Date (Bivalent Booster) Coverage



LOS ANGELES COUNTY FINANCIAL REWARD PROGRAM FOR THE 2023-2024 UPDATED COVID-19 VACCINE

The Los Angeles County (LAC) Department of Public Health (DPH) is excited to offer financial rewards to skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) in LAC, including Pasadena and Long Beach, who reach high levels of coverage to protect their residents and staff with the 2023-2024 updated COVID-19 vaccine!

Each SNF can earn a maximum of \$10,000. This award will be available for the first 100 SNFs in LAC (including Pasadena and Long Beach) who apply and receive confirmation from DPH they have met all criteria, or until funds run out.

\$7,500 Financial Reward

Facilities must demonstrate that 80% or more of their resident census have received the 2023-2024 updated COVID-19 vaccine over a single 1-week period from Monday through Sunday anytime between Nov 13 - Dec 17, 2023.

AND

SNFs must also have demonstrated they're reporting all administered vaccine doses to California immunization Registry (CAIR2).

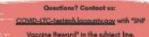
\$2,500 Financial Reward

Facilities must demonstrate that 80% or more of their staff census have received the 2023-2024 updated COVID-19 vaccine over a single 1-week period from Monday through Sunday anytime between Nov 13 - Dec 17, 2023.

If your SNF applies for both rewards, the 1-week period from Monday through Senday does not have to be the same for residents and staff.

Important Dates

- November 15 December 17, 2025: Time period when the 80% vaccine coverage must be met for at least a single 1-week period.
- November 20, 2025: Applications will officially open. Link to apply will be sent via email.
- December 22, 2023: Deadline to submit applications.











2023-2024 Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Incentive Program

- \$7500 reward for resident vaccinations
- \$2500 reward for staff vaccinations
- Eligible time period: 11/13-12/17/2023 (we are in the last week now!)
- Deadline for initial applications: 12/22/2023



Reporting into CAIR2

- Effective <u>January 1, 2023</u>, all healthcare providers, including SNFs, are legally mandated to report <u>ALL</u> immunizations administered in their facility.
- Each facility needs to ensure they have the correct access to CAIR2 as providers, so either <u>enroll or change</u> your access.
- For more information and technical support, you can contact:
 - Your <u>local CAIR representative</u> (scroll down to CAIR2 Los Angeles region)
 - The <u>CAIR Helpdesk</u>
- Include your facility name, full address, and CAIR org ID
- You can also view our webinar from August 4, 2023: <u>slides</u> and <u>recording</u>.



NHSN Reporting: COVID-19 Vaccine Up to Date Status

- All CMS-certified SNFs in LAC are required to report every week to NHSN's LTCF COVID-19/Respiratory Pathogens Vaccination Module
 - Required weekly reporting for resident <u>AND</u> healthcare personnel (staff) up to date COVID-19 vaccine data

NHSN Surveillance Definition of Up to Date

Individuals must meet the following criteria to be considered Up to Date with their COVID-19 vaccines:

Received a 2023-2024 Updated COVID-19
Vaccine

- If an individual has not received the 2023-2024 updated COVID-19 vaccine they are not considered up to date with COVID-19 vaccines
 - Your facility should report zero (0) up to date if no one has received the 2023-2024 updated COVID-19 vaccine
- The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 bivalent vaccines were de-authorized as of 9/12/2023. This criteria is no longer valid for COVID-19 up to date status.

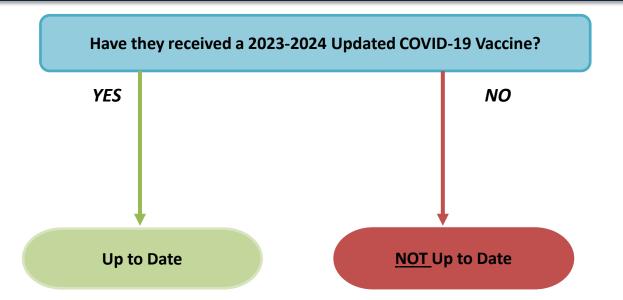
CDC Up to Date COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html



NHSN Up-to-Date Surveillance Definition

For the purposes of NHSN surveillance reporting individuals must meet the following criteria to be considered Up to Date with their COVID-19 vaccines:

Received a 2023-2024 Updated COVID-19 Vaccine





NHSN Survey Reporting Resources

- NHSN LTCF Component: https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/index.html
 - Several resources for new users, trainings, LTCF manual, and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on reporting components
- NHSN COVID-19/Respiratory Pathogens Module for

LTCFs: https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/covid19/index.html

- Information on LTCF COVID-19 Module enrollment, trainings (recordings and slides), upcoming webinars, data collection forms and instructions, facility CSV Import templates, as well as CMS requirements in the right pane of the webpage
- Also includes optional influenza and RSV surveillance and vaccine reporting
- NHSN Helpdesk: https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/about-nhsn/helpdesk.html
 - When emailing NHSN Helpdesk (nhsn@cdc.gov), please include in your subject line your SNF's NHSN Org ID and the LTCF COVID-19 Component item you are inquiring about, for example: "Enrollment" "NHSN Administrator Access" "COVID-19 Vaccination".
 - NHSN-ServiceNow Customer Service Portal
- SAMs Help Desk: samshelp@cdc.gov and phone 1-877-681-2901 (Select Option #5).
 - Assistance with NHSN platform login and access
 - SAMs Help Desk (via phone and email) Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–6 p.m. EST Excluding U.S. Federal Holidays



SNF Honors Program

- Be recognized for your hard work!
 - Vaccination rates.
 - Engagement in LAC DPH activities.
 - Infection Prevention and Control Program structure.





Does your skilled nursing facility want assistance with implementing infection control best practices?





SNF ICAR Program

- Non-punitive.
- Get help to improve infection prevention and control practices to avoid citations from licensing.
- On-the-spot feedback to help improve safety for your residents and staff.



Lessons Learned: LEAD with Vaccine Confidence

Multi-component

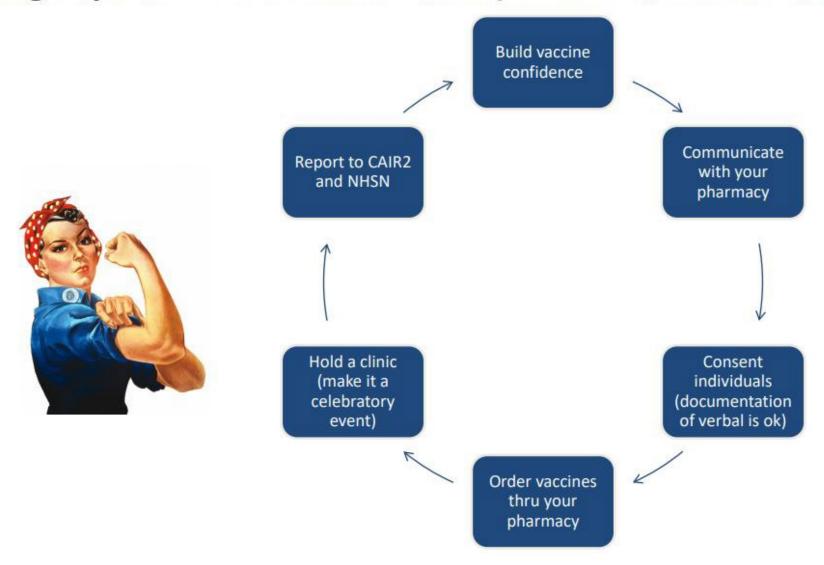




- Empower champions & Engage Everyone (including doctors!)
- Anecdotes: include alongside data & focus on positive stories
- Decrease barriers, make vaccination the Default choice



High uptake of 2023 fall vaccines (COVID-19, Influenza, RSV)





LA County Health Officer Order (9/27/23) Requires All HCWs to Vaccinate OR Mask

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH Public Health ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER ORDER NO. 2023-04-01 OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER ORDER OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER ANNUAL INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATION OR MASKING AND ADDITION OF UPDATED COVID-19 IMMUNIZATION OR MASKING REQUIREMENT FOR HEALTHCARE PERSONNEL DURING THE 2023-2024 RESPIRATORY VIRUS SEASON Original Issue Date: Monday, September 11, 2023 Revision Date: Wednesday, September 27, 2023 **Brief Highlights:** 9/27/2023: On 9/11/23, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved and authorized for emergency use, updated COVID-19 vaccines (2023-2024 Formula). These updated vaccines more closely target currently circulating variants (i.e., Omicron variant XBB.1.5) and better protect against serious consequences of COVID-19, including severe illness, hospitalization, and death. On 9/12/23, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended everyone 6 months and older get an updated COVID-19 vaccine to protect against the potentially serious outcomes of COVID-19 illness this fall and winter.

 Based on the FDA approval/authorization and the CDC guidance, HCP working in all licensed healthcare facilities in Los Angeles County must also receive the updated COVID-19 vaccine (2023-2024 Formula) this fall and winter. HCP who decline the

season.

updated COVID-19 vaccination will be required to wear a respiratory mask when in contact with patients or working in Patient-Care Areas during the respiratory virus

- All HCWs in licensed healthcare settings: general acute hospitals, acute psych hospitals, SNFs, ICFs, CLHFs, EMS, chemical dependent recovery hospitals, dialysis centers, home health agencies, primary care clinics, ambulatory surgery centers, hospice facilities
- Must be vaccinated against both COVID and influenza OR must mask in resident care areas for the entirety of the respiratory viral illness season (Nov-Apr).

http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/Docs/2023/Influenza_HOO_IZorMaskingforHCWs_2023.pdf



California Department of Public Health Provider Webinars



1. https://eziz.org/provider-ed/webinars/



Summary

- Vaccines, vaccines, vaccines!
 - The BEST way to prevent transmission.
 - The EASIEST way to prevent transmission.
 - The FASTEST way to prevent transmission.
 - The CHEAPEST way to prevent transmission.
- Consult LAC DPH!
 - Free, beneficial programs: SNF Honors Program, Updated
 COVID-19 Vaccine Incentive Program, and ICAR Program.
 - Vaccine information, vaccine confidence, quality improvement, and infection prevention resources.



Resources

- LAC DPH SNF website: http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/SNF/index.htm
- Health Officer Order for Immunization or Mask during the winter season: http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/Docs/2023/Influenza HOO IZorMaskingforHCWs 2023.pdf
- COVID-19 dashboard: http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/data/
- COVID-19 Best Practices: http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/docs/SNFVaccinationCoverageBestPractices.pdf
- Influenza Best Practices: http://www.ph.lacounty.gov/acd/docs/BestPracticesInfluenzaImmunizationHCP.pdf
- Stay Up To Date with COVID-19 vaccines: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html
- Link for the 2023-2024 Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Incentive Program: https://lacpublichealth.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0iUJA6nXasS4WI6
- CAIR: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CAIR/Pages/CAIR-updates.aspx
- NHSN LTCF COVID-19/Respiratory Pathogens Vaccination Module: https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/weekly-covid-vac/index.html
- ICAR sign up: http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/snficarprogram.htm
- CDPH provider webinars and crucial conversations: https://eziz.org/provider-ed/webinars/
- LAC DPH vaccines resource: http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vaccines/index.htm#public_sites
- For Uninsured/Underinsured: https://www.vaccines.gov/, or https://www.vaccines.gov/, or https://www.vaccines.gov/, or https://www.vaccines.gov/.
- CDC Vaccine Information Statement on COVID-19 Vaccine: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/COVID-19.pdf
- LAC DPH COVID-19 Vaccine Facts for Residents and Families:
 http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/vaccine/VaccineFacts.pdf



